CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:

2   detecting insertion of a disk within the disk drive;

3   reading contents of the disk; and

4   storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory as a

5   back-up version.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing a new

2   version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on

3   the disk.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically

2   ejecting the disk during a shut down procedure of the computing device.

1   4.   A computing device, comprising:

2   a processing device;

3   a disk drive; and

4   memory including a disk back-up controller that is configured to store a copy

5   of contents of a disk inserted into the disk drive in a designated location within

6   memory.

1   5.   The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk back-up controller

2   is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a

3   user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1   6.   The computing device of claim 4, further comprising an ejection

2   mechanism that is adapted to automatically eject the disk during a shut down

3   procedure of the computing device.

1   7.   The computing device of claim 4, wherein the disk drive comprises a

2   floppy disk drive.

1   8.   The computing device of claim 4, wherein the computing device is one

2   of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1   9.   A method for operating a disk drive, comprising the steps of:

2   detecting a shut down procedure of the computing device; and

3   transmitting an ejection command to the disk drive to cause an ejection

4   mechanism of the disk drive to actuate to eject a floppy disk inserted within the disk

5   drive.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, detecting insertion of a disk within the disk

2   drive and storing a copy of the disk contents in a designated location within memory

3   as a back-up version.

1   11.   The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of storing a new

2   version of data in the designated location when a user stores a new version of data on

3   the disk.

1   12.   A computing device, comprising:

2   a processing device;

3   a disk drive, the disk drive including an ejection mechanism is configured to

4   actuate to automatically eject a disk contained within the disk drive during shut down

5   procedures of the computing device.

1   13.   The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory

2   including a disk ejection controller configured to transmit an ejection command to the

3   disk drive when a shut down procedure is detected.

1   14.   The computing device of claim 12, further comprising memory

2   including a disk back-up controller configured to store a copy of disk contents in a

3   designated location within memory as a back-up version when a disk is inserted into

4   the disk drive.

1   15.   The computing device of claim 14, wherein the disk back-up controller

2   is further configured to store a new version of data in the designated location when a

3   user stores a new version of data on the disk.

1   16.   The computing device of claim 12, wherein the disk drive comprises a

2   floppy disk drive.

1   17.   The computing device of claim 12, wherein the computing device is

2   one of a personal computer, a Macintosh computer, and a notebook computer.

1   18.   A disk drive for use in a computing device, the disk drive comprising:

2   an ejection mechanism configured to automatically eject a disk contained

3   within the disk drive during shut down procedures of the computing device.

1   19.   The disk drive of claim 18, wherein the ejection mechanism comprises

2   electromechanical components that actuate upon application of an appropriate

3   actuation voltage.